

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Byrne Drug-Gang Task Force Interdiction

Methamphetamine Arrests and Removals
July 2007 to March 2012

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Public Safety Unit
4/16/2012

Byrne JAG Task Forces allow the assignment of local law enforcement officers to multijurisdictional task forces, allowing them to shift their focus away from day-to-day street drug crimes and local dealers to regional distribution and large scale trafficking networks. Task Forces coordinate with federal law enforcement agencies to create seamless investigations into large scale criminal gang and trafficking operations.

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MISSION:

The mission of the JAG Multijurisdictional Drug-Gang Task Force Program is to measurably reduce drug trafficking, money laundering and drug and gang-related violent crimes. This is accomplished by measurably reducing large-scale importation and local drug trafficking by intercepting shipments and disrupting local drug manufacturing and trafficking operations to disrupt, dismantle and prosecute organized criminal enterprises. The Task Force focus is on high value (volume of drugs accessible) drug trafficking targets and criminal gang organizations.

STRATEGIC APPROACH:

The focus for multijurisdictional Drug-Gang task forces is on the use of Intelligence, Investigations, and Interdiction. In Washington State there are 19 JAG-funded Drug-Gang Task Forces that provide special services to preserve public health and safety in populations in 31 of the 39 counties in Washington State (84 percent of the state's population). In these task force service areas, JAG Multijurisdictional Drug-Gang Task Forces work in-partnership with the NW HIDTA funded Drug Task Forces. In the jointly supported areas, there are eight Byrne Grant-funded, multi-jurisdictional gang and drug task forces. There are also four DEA task forces, and one city/county task force. Each agency has an individual strategy, requirements, and mission addressing drug trafficking and criminal gang activities. The NW HIDTA enforcement initiatives focus upon disrupting and dismantling drug and money laundering organizations and identifying criminal gang enterprises for further law enforcement investigations in the areas of criminal gang and related violent crime.

The Byrne JAG Task Forces serve 41 of 49 or 84 percent of the state's legislative districts, all 9 Congressional Districts and 26 of the 39 (66.7 percent) counties in the State of Washington. That includes 6 tribal communities and a total statewide population of 6,250,814 people (93.74 percent of the State's 2010 population). Task forces do not serve 8 Legislative Districts and thirteen counties with a total non-served population of approximately 417,266 people (6.26 percent).

MULTIJURISDICTIONAL DRUG-GANG TASK FORCE FOCUS:

In 2010, the Department of Commerce's Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Advisory Committee recommended a change in the JAG Multijurisdictional Narcotics Task Force Program to allow them to be dedicated to mid- to upper-level investigation and interdiction efforts of criminal organizations that are focused on and engaged in criminal enterprise around gangs, guns, and drugs. Program staff began immediately to plan and implement the transition. The Byrne JAG Multijurisdictional Drug-Gang Task Force Program is a partnership of federal, state, and local law enforcement, prosecutors, specialty units for forensic financial investigation, gang specialist from existing gang units and newer specialty units such as the HIDTA/WSP Fusion Center for Intelligence and cooperative Investigations and existing agencies such as the Western States Intelligence Network (WSIN) providing new intelligence products. They are all working to eliminate criminal organizations that focus on illicit activities around gangs, guns, and drug operations. Its stated purpose is to reduce the availability, use, and trafficking of illegal drugs,

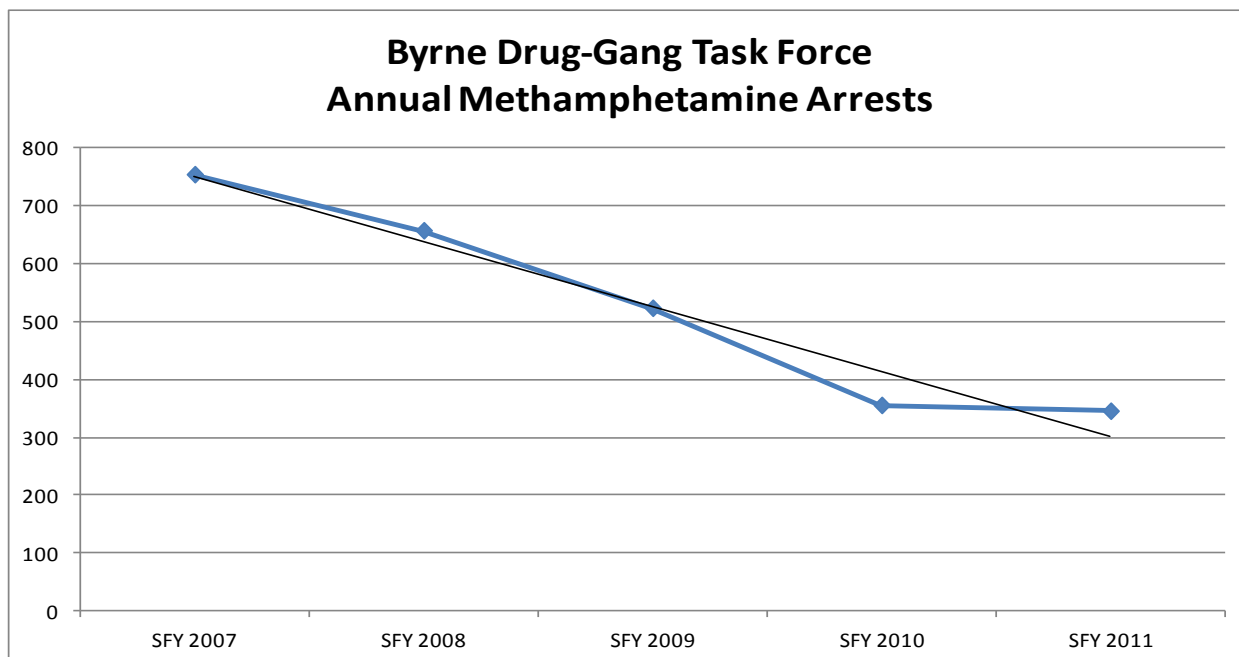
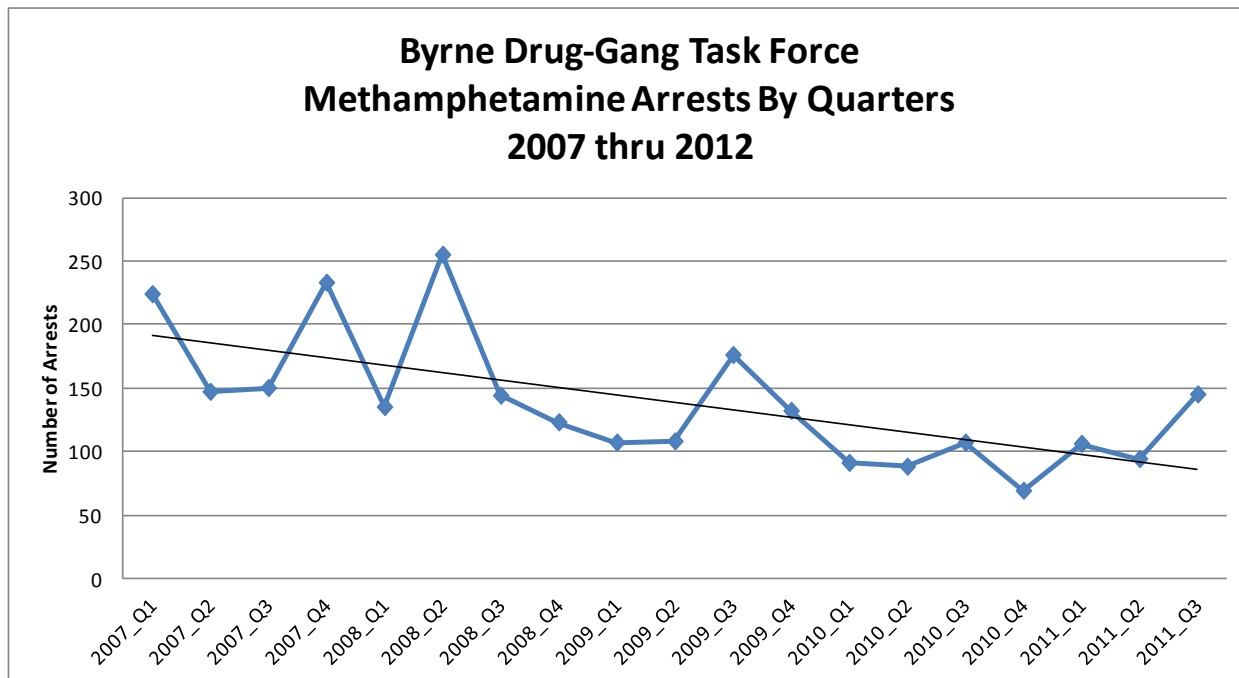
guns, and the profits of criminal gang and drug organizations by working cooperatively to identify, interdict, dismantle, and prosecute targeted gang and drug-trafficking individuals and organizations. Task Forces work across local, state, and federal jurisdictions to dismantle or disrupt mid- to upper-level criminal organizations. Their efforts make communities safer and healthier by reducing drug availability and organized crime. As stated in the 2010 Washington State Auditor's Office Financial Audit, "The challenge today is that 95 percent of violent crimes and 99% of drug crime in Washington State can be attributed to gang activity"[... and the County will need more funds in 2011]"...or, anticipate continual increases in crimeⁱ."

Byrne JAG Drug-Gang Task Force organizations have successfully investigated and referred criminal behavior in cases to county prosecutors for felony filing in County Superior Court when a violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act or violation regarding prescription drugs is the primary charge. Beginning in July, 2011, Drug-Gang task forces expanded their investigations to include criminal gang organizations and individuals engaged in gang-related criminal enterprise as defined under 9.101.010 RCW, RCW 9.94A.30, or 43.43.762 RCW.

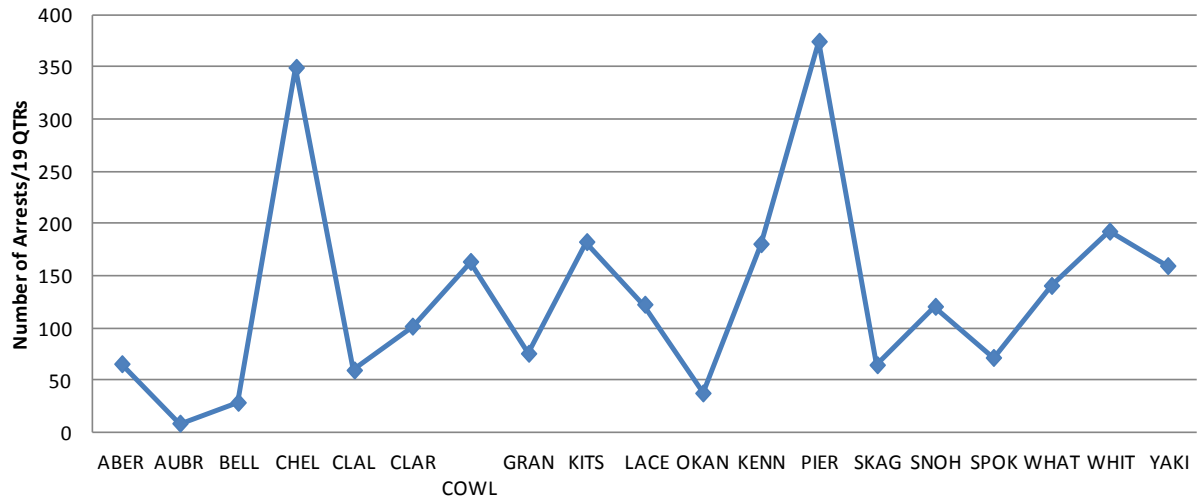
To understand the future environment, we will periodically look back at the performance of the past.

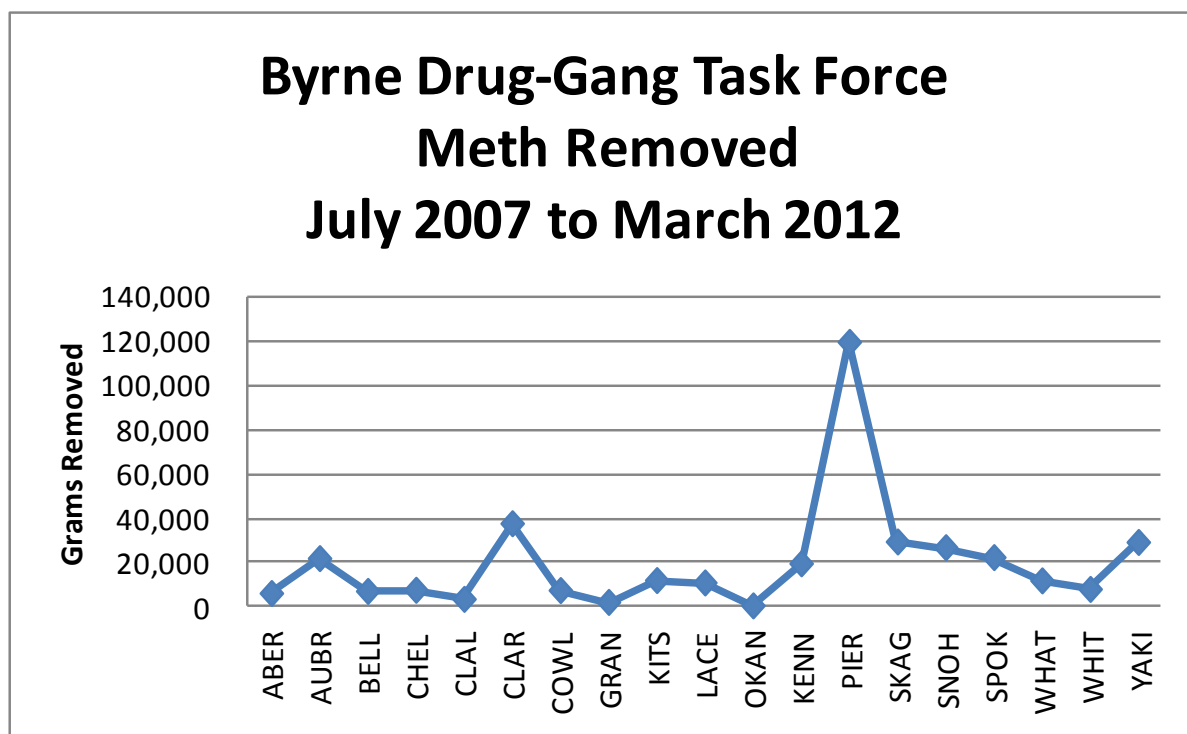
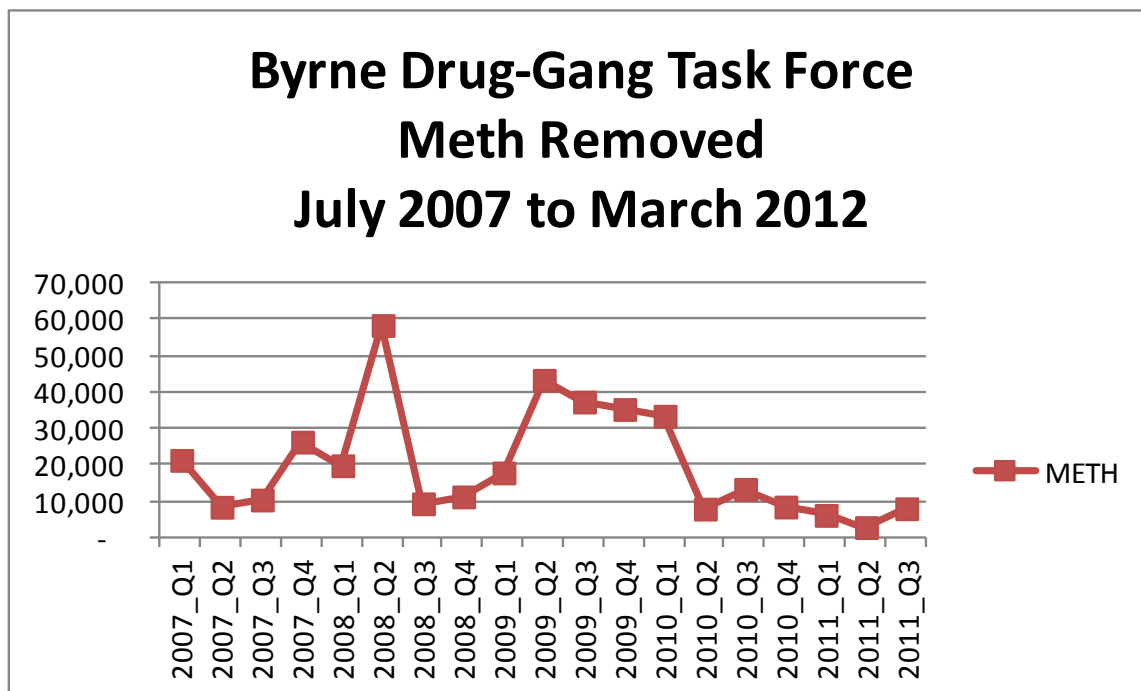
The following charts demonstrate data that has been collected over the past five years by the Byrne Drug-Gang Task Forces and represents a sub-set of the investigative and drug enforcement activities ongoing in the Pacific Northwest, primarily in the state of Washington. Drug removal quantities reflect only those activities directly related to Byrne JAG funded Task Forces and do not reflect the totality of all federal or local drug enforcement agencies investigating and prosecuting cases they may have initiated, investigated and, disrupted or dismantled.

METH RELATED ARRESTS

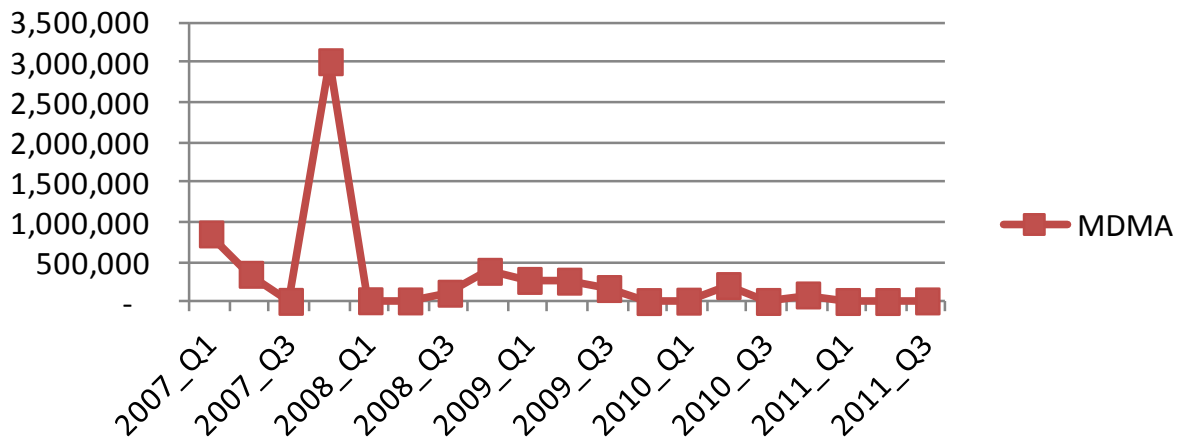


Byrne Drug-Gang Task Force Methamphetamine Arrests July 2007 thru March 2012

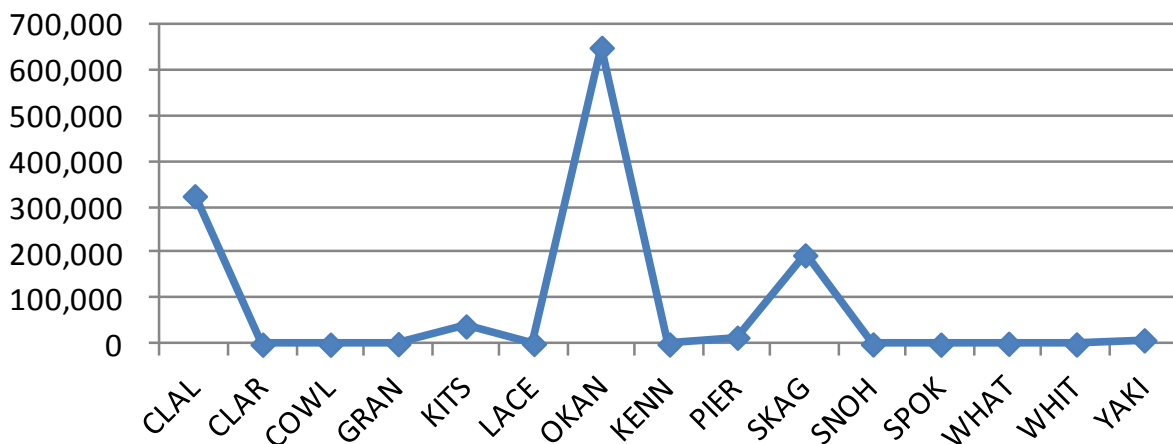




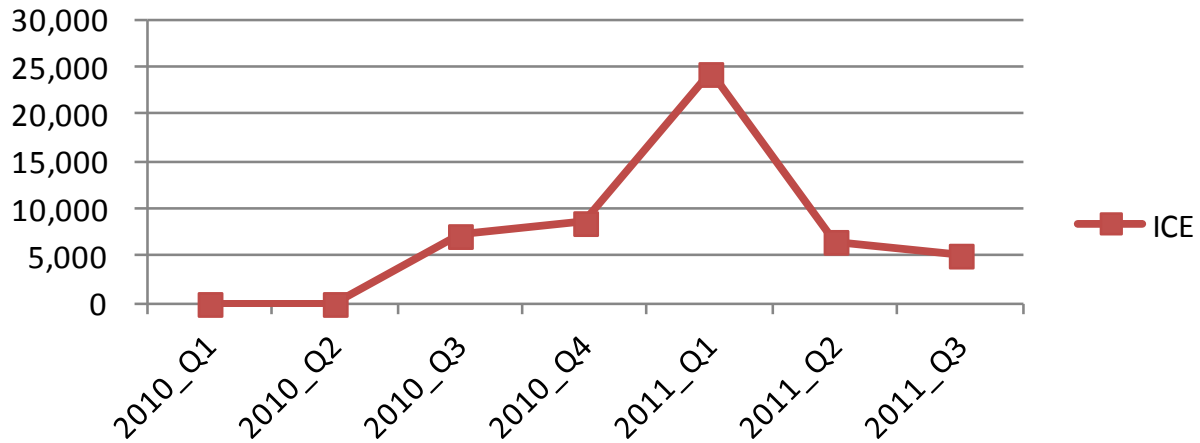
Byrne Drug-Gang Task Force MDMA-Ecstasy Removed July 2007 to March 2012



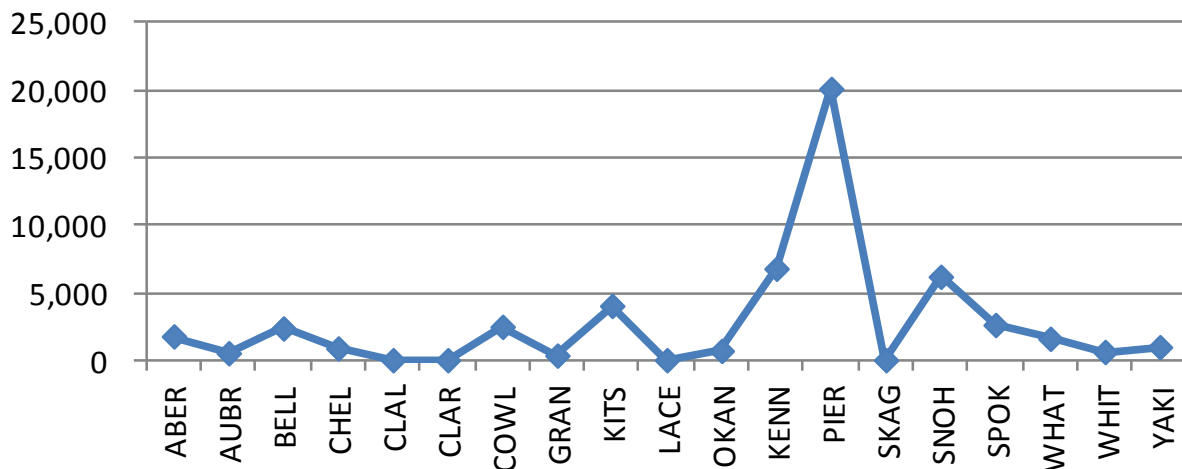
Byrne Drug-Gang Task Force MDMA Removed July 2007 to March 2012



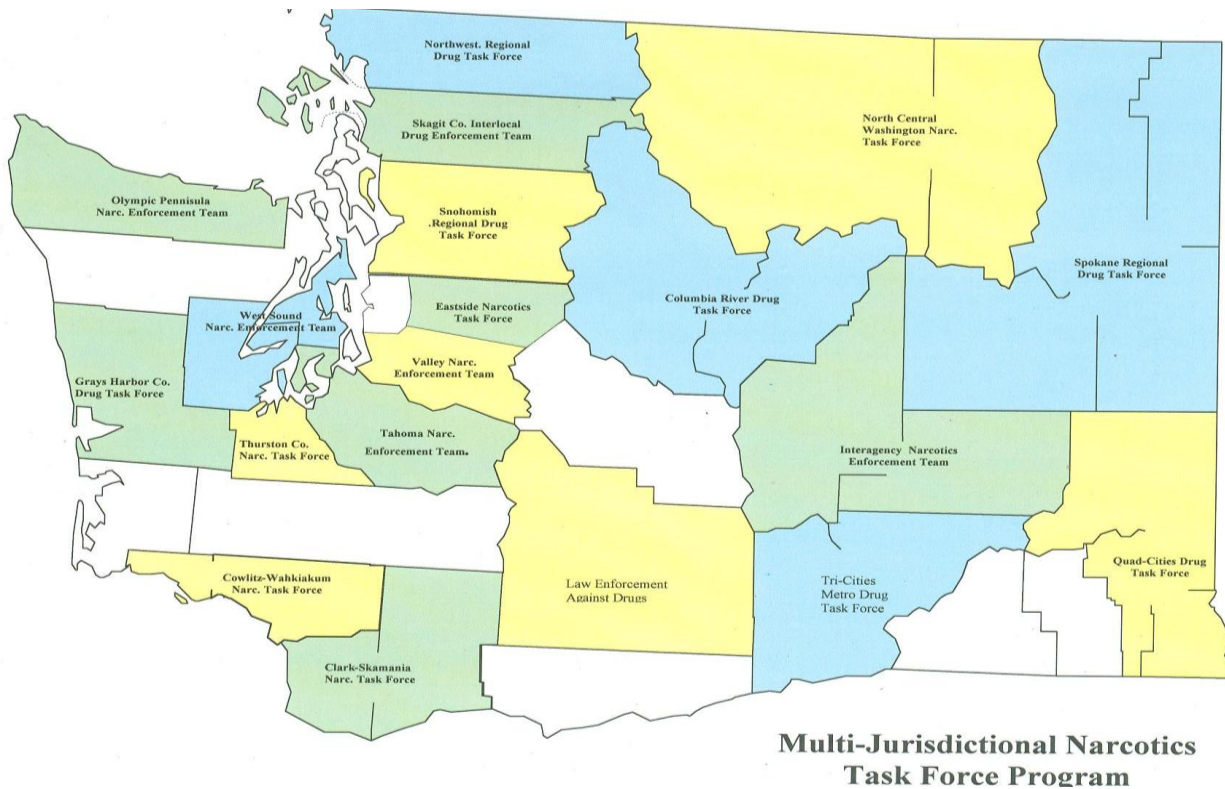
Byrne Drug-Gang Task Force Crystal Meth Removed July 2010 to March 2012



Byrne Drug-Gang Task Force Crystal Meth Removed July 2010 to March 2012



STATEWIDE TASK FORCE REGIONS



Drug Task Force Areas of Coverage

Areas served:

41 of 49 Legislative Districts; all 9 Congressional Districts;

28 of the 39 Counties, and; 94.74% of the state's total population

ⁱ Auditor's Office Yakima County statement in response to State Audit (page 44); Washington State Auditor's Office *Financial Statements and Federal Single Audit Report: Yakima County; for the Period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. Report #1006381; Issue Data: September 26, 2011.*